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Bilezikjian et al.

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(54) **COOLING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A VEHICLE ENGINE**

(2013.01); *F01P 2003/024* (2013.01); *F01P 2003/027* (2013.01); *F01P 2003/028* (2013.01); *F01P 2005/105* (2013.01); *F01P 2005/125* (2013.01); *F01P 2025/33* (2013.01); *F01P 2060/08* (2013.01)

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USPC 123/41.01, 41.02, 41.05, 41.06, 41.28, 123/41.29, 41.74, 41.82 R
See application file for complete search history.

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F01P 3/02 (2006.01)
F01P 7/16 (2006.01)
F01P 7/14 (2006.01)
F01P 5/12 (2006.01)

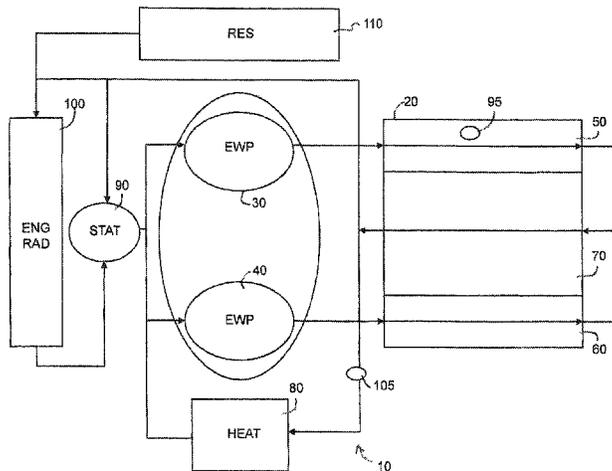
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An exemplary cooling system includes, among other things, a first pump to supply coolant to a cylinder head or cylinder block of an engine, a second pump to supply coolant to a cylinder block or cylinder head of the engine. A control unit governs the first pump and second pump. Fluid return channels recirculate coolant to the pumps. The first and second pumps are arranged to backflow coolant through the engine.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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20 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



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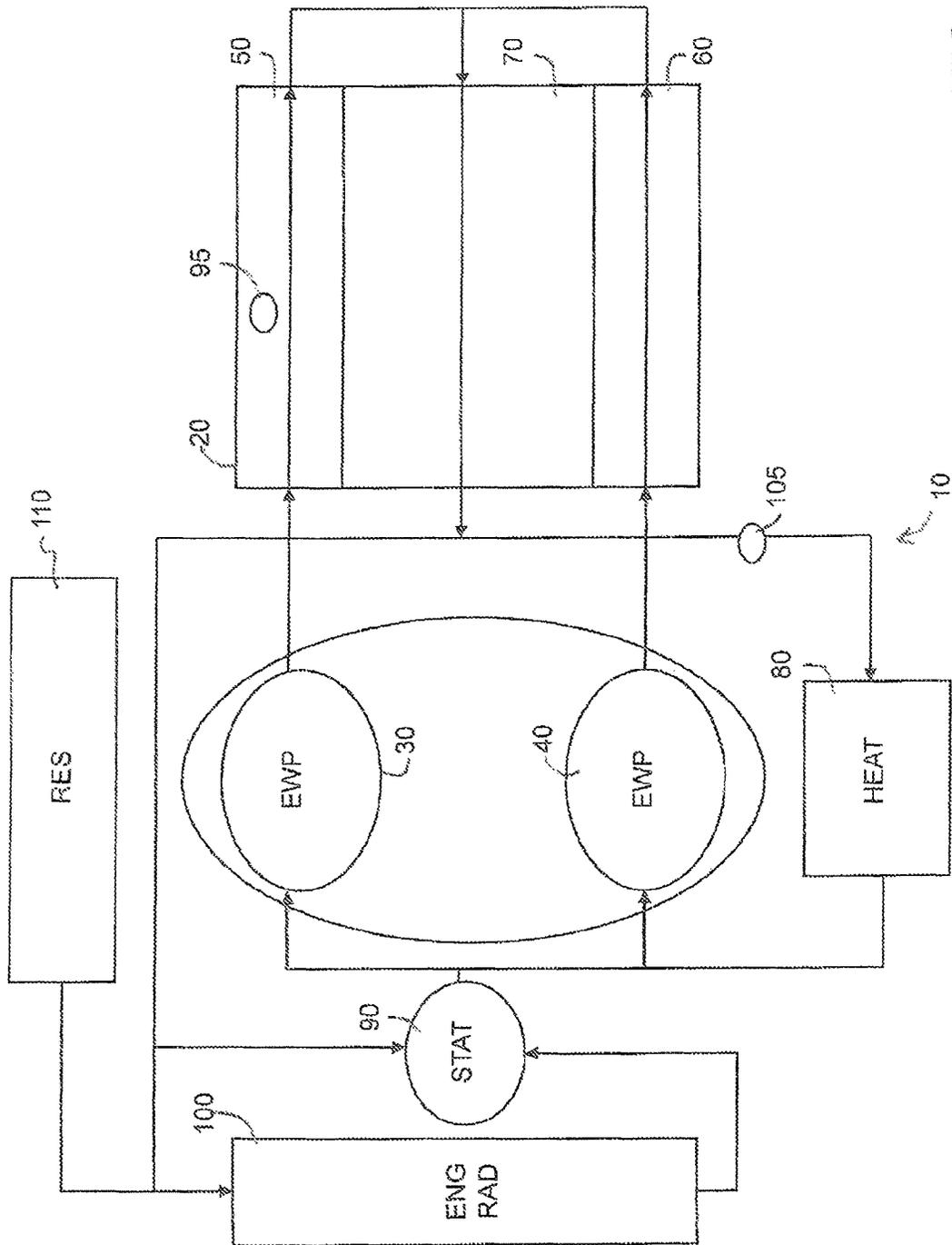


FIG. 1

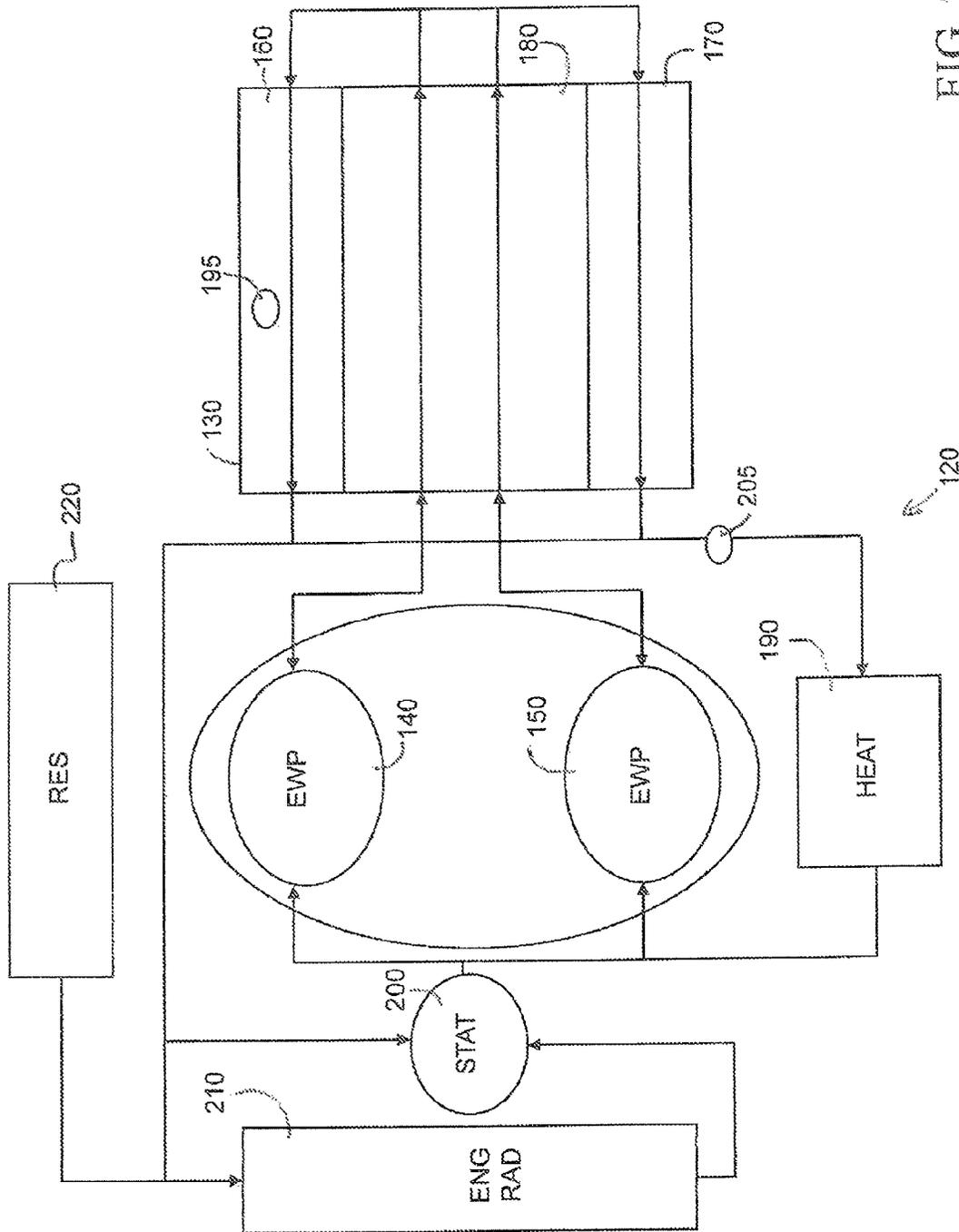


FIG. 2

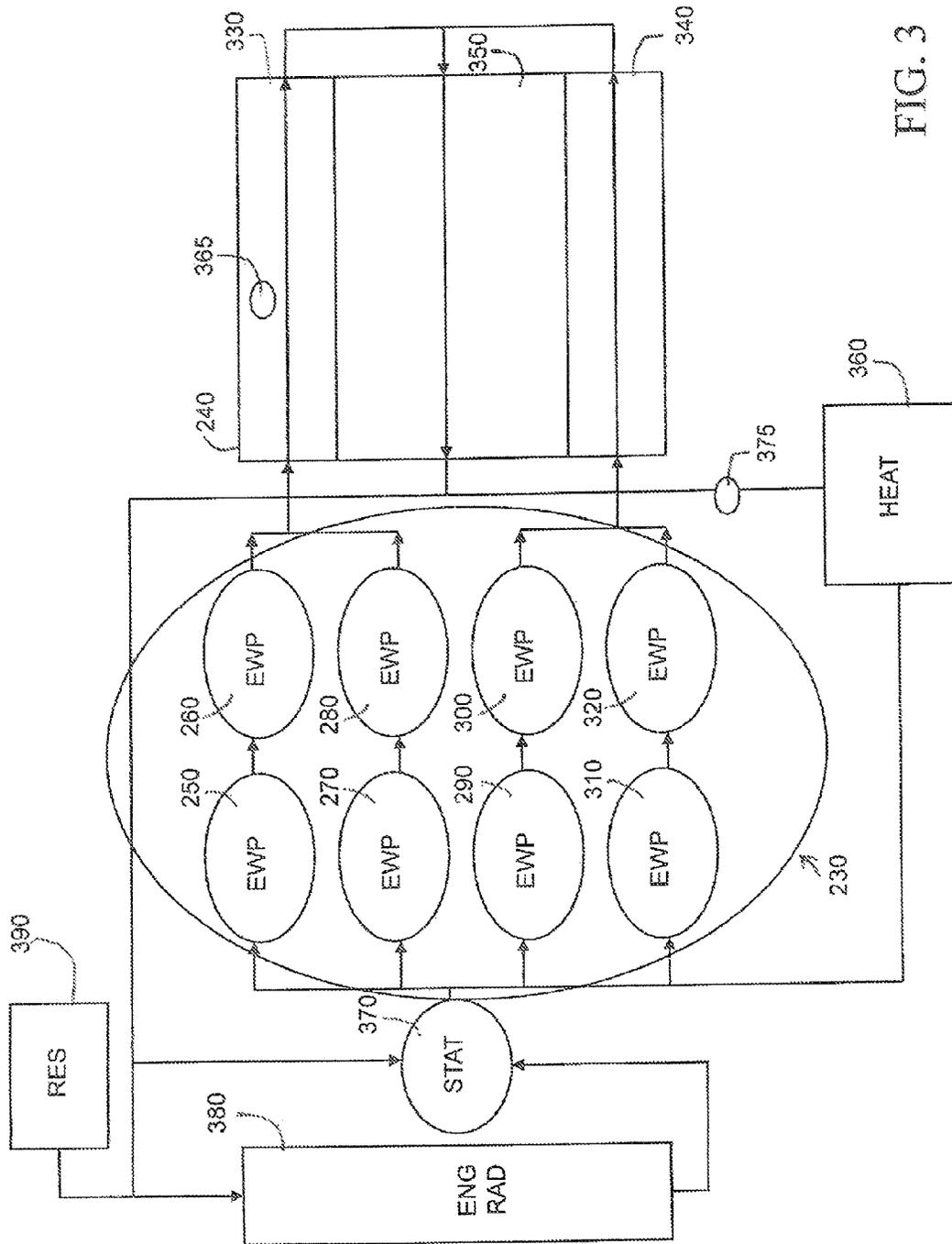


FIG. 3

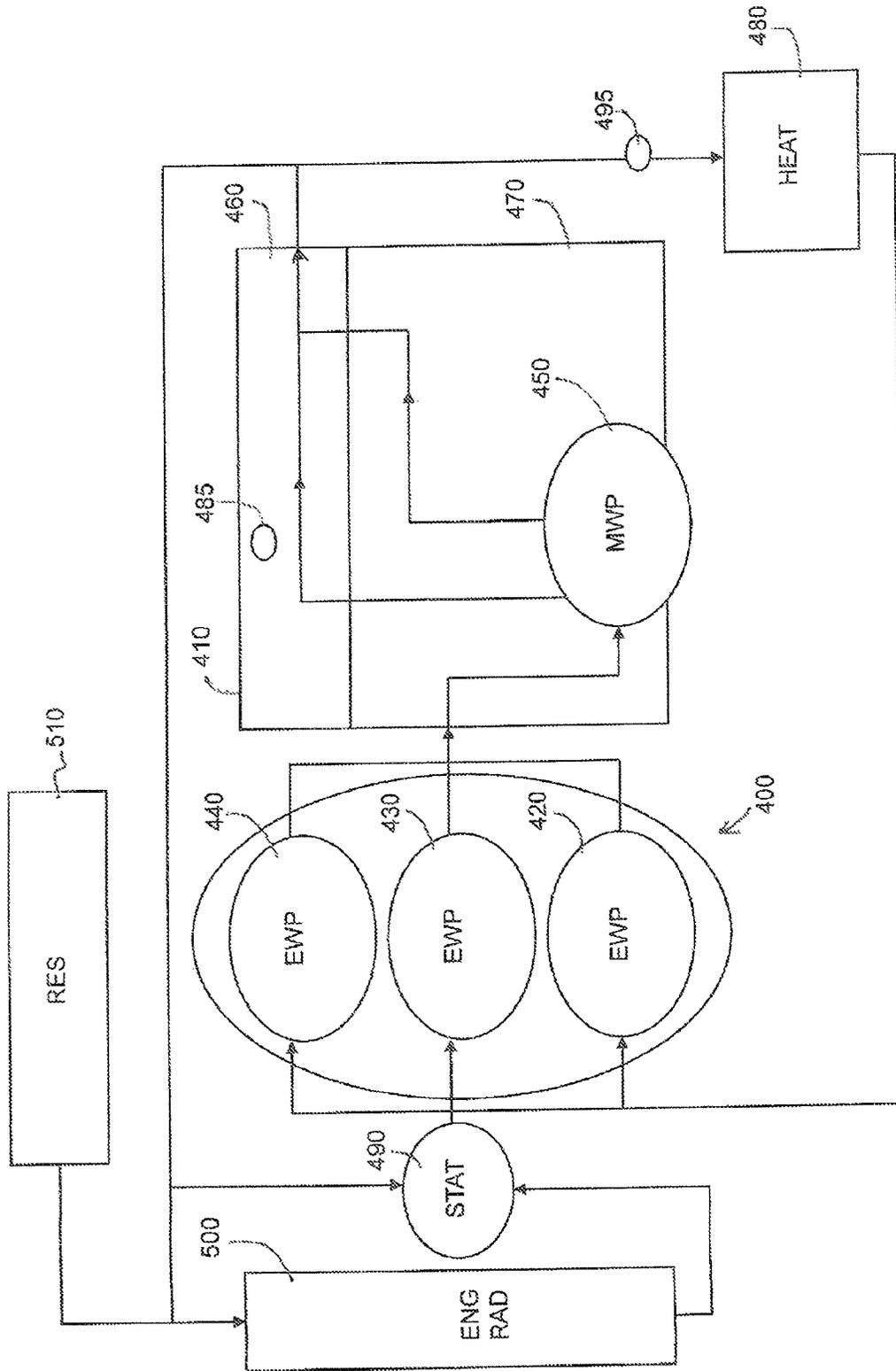


FIG. 4

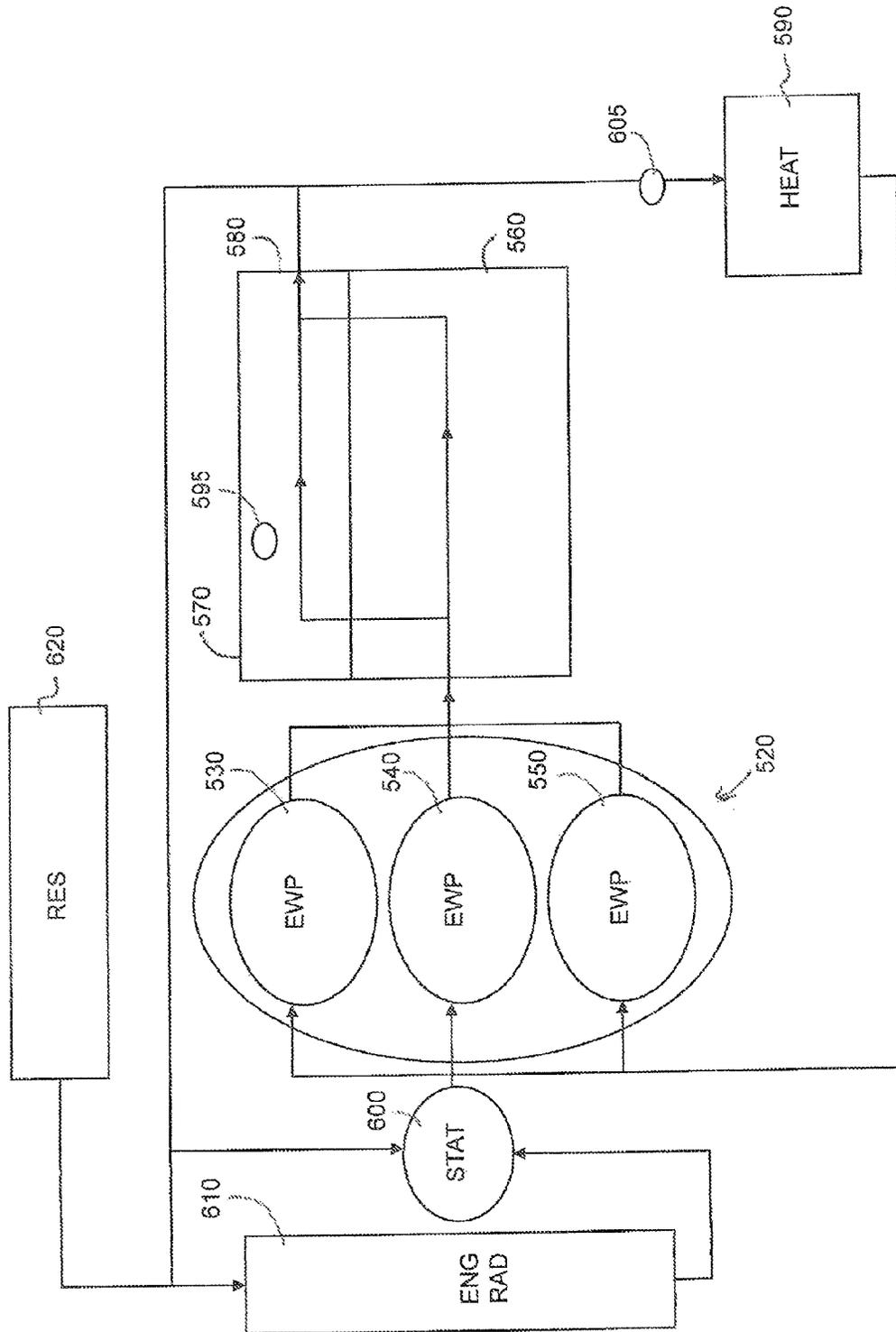


FIG. 5

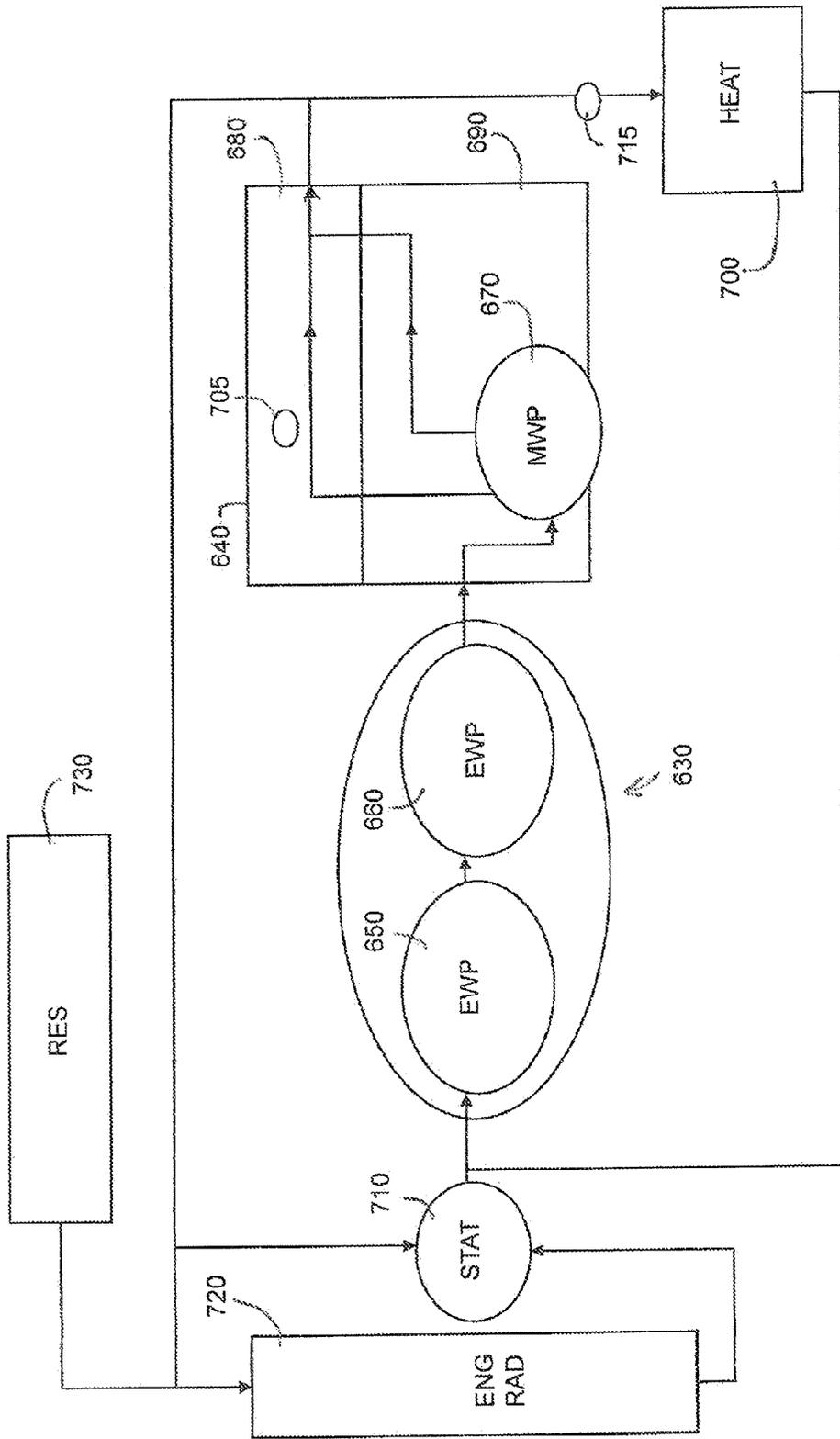


FIG. 6

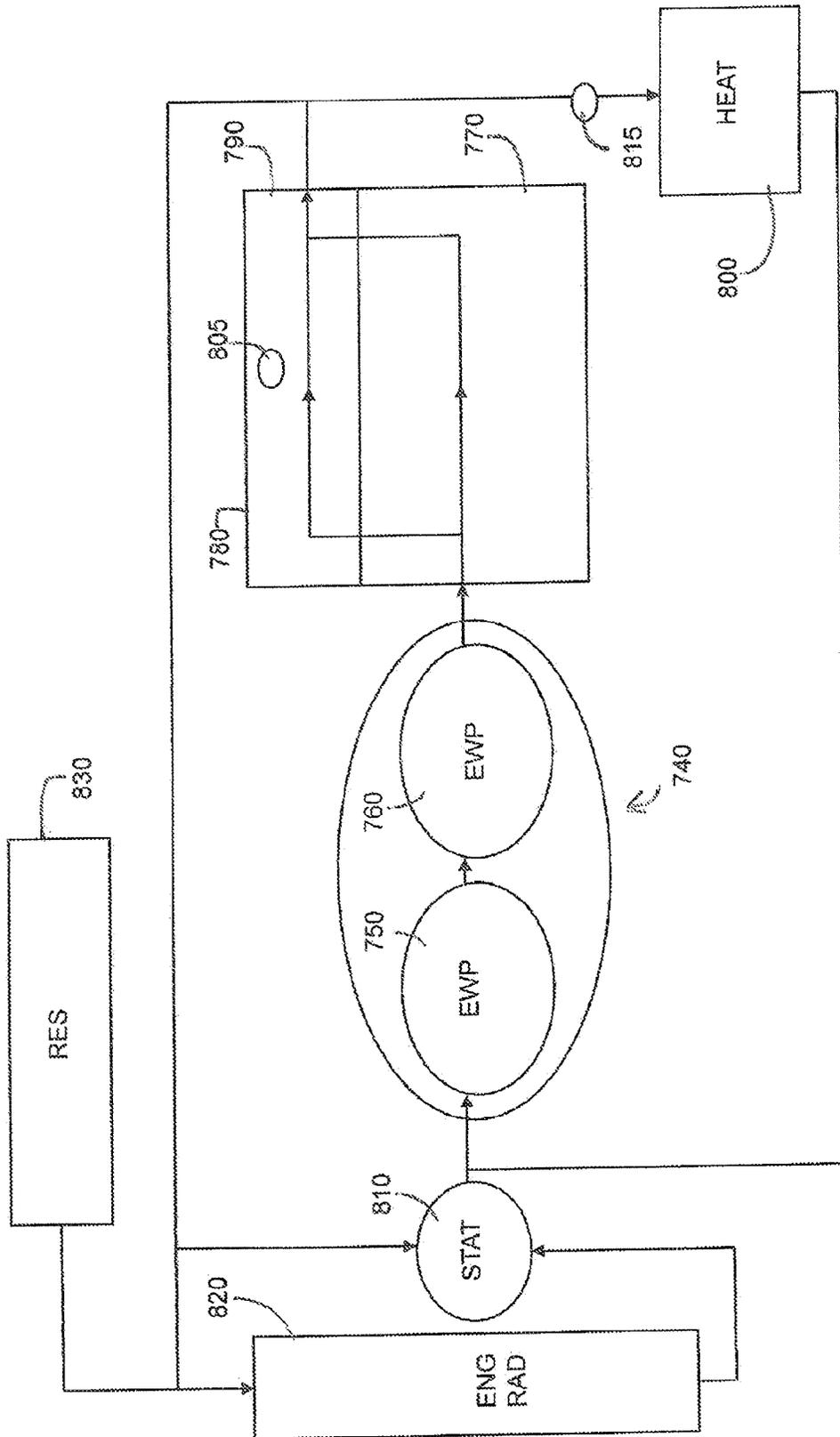


FIG. 7

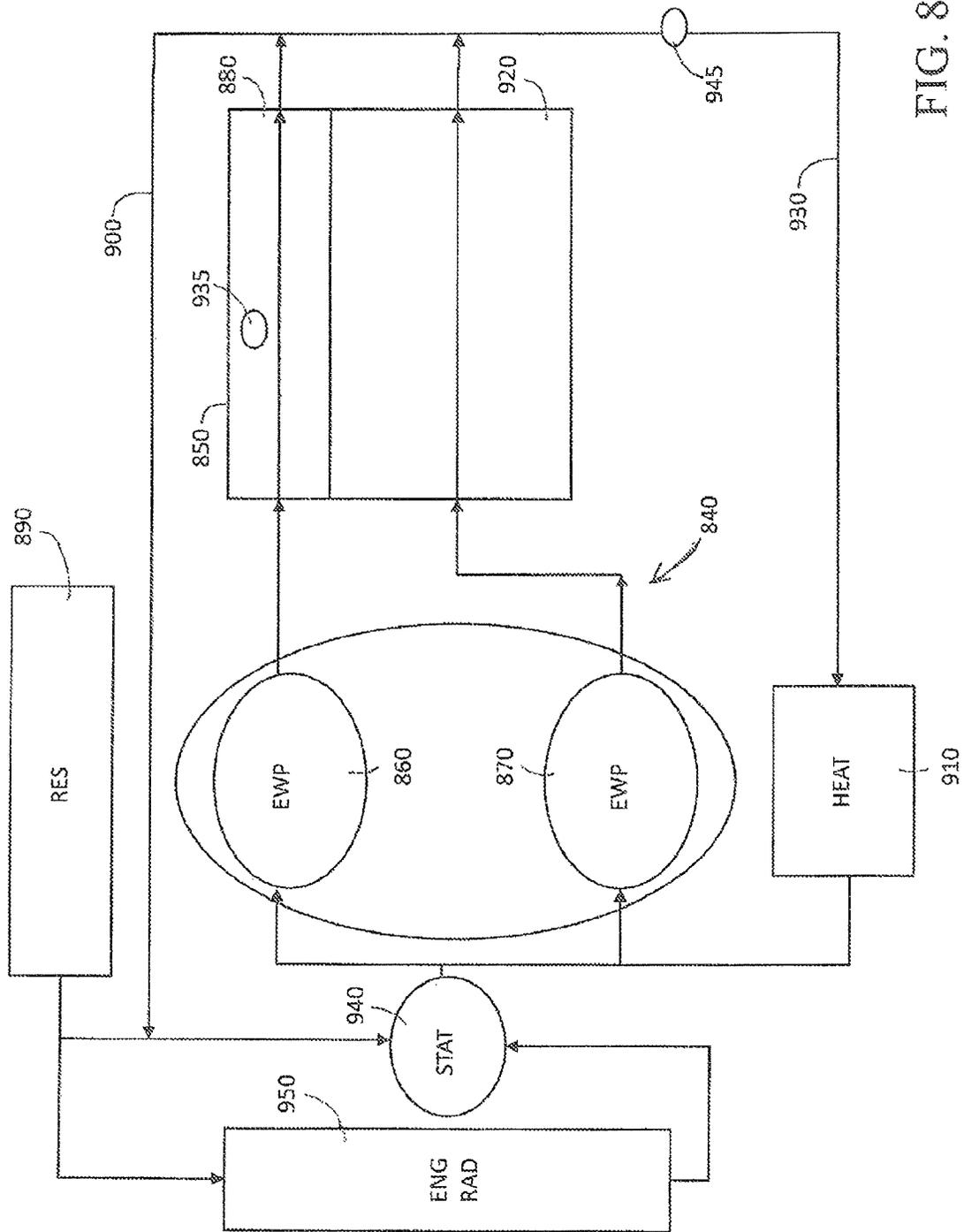


FIG. 8

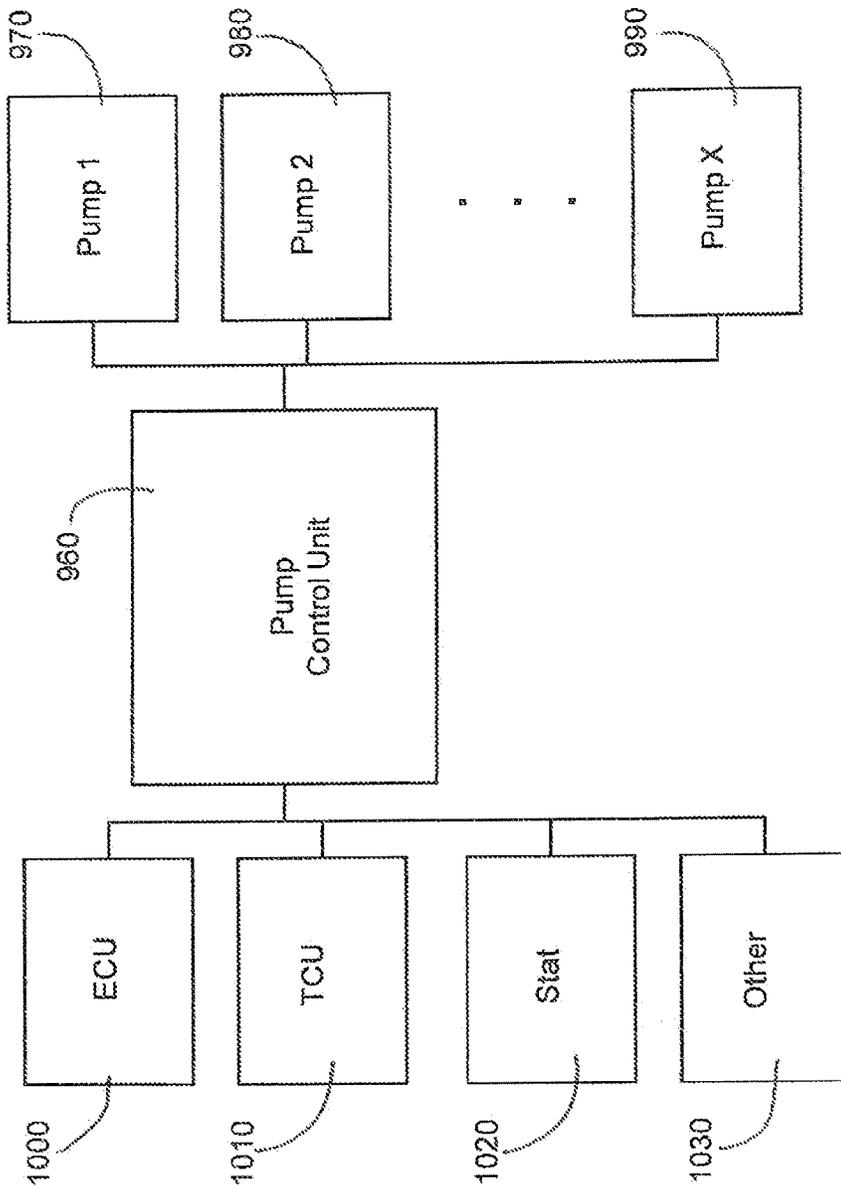


FIG. 9

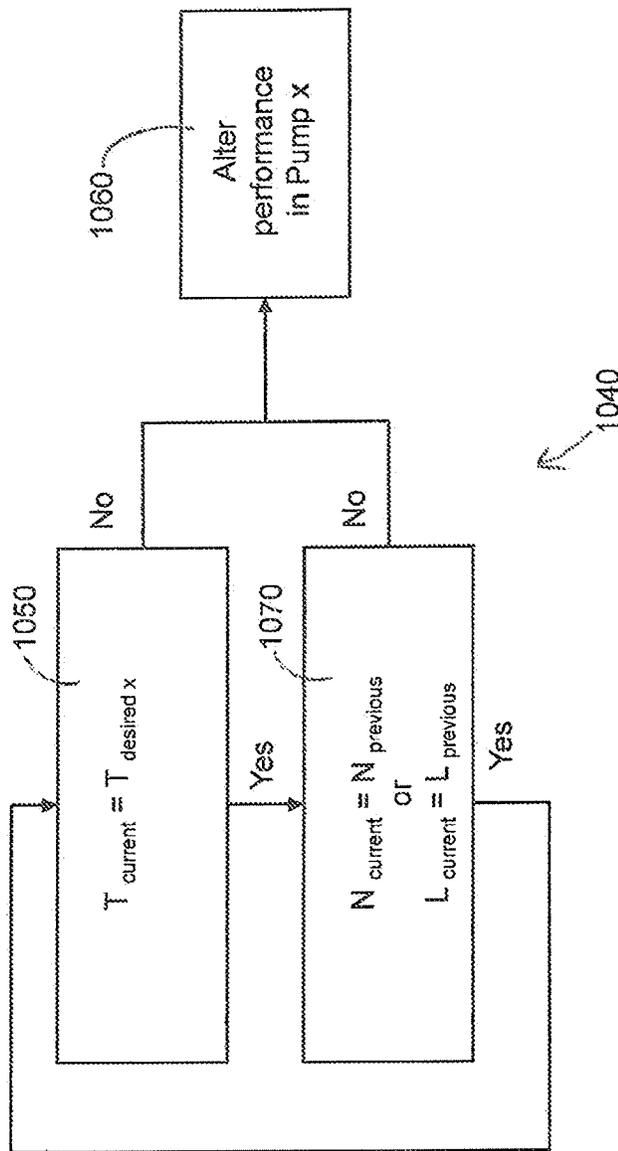


FIG. 10

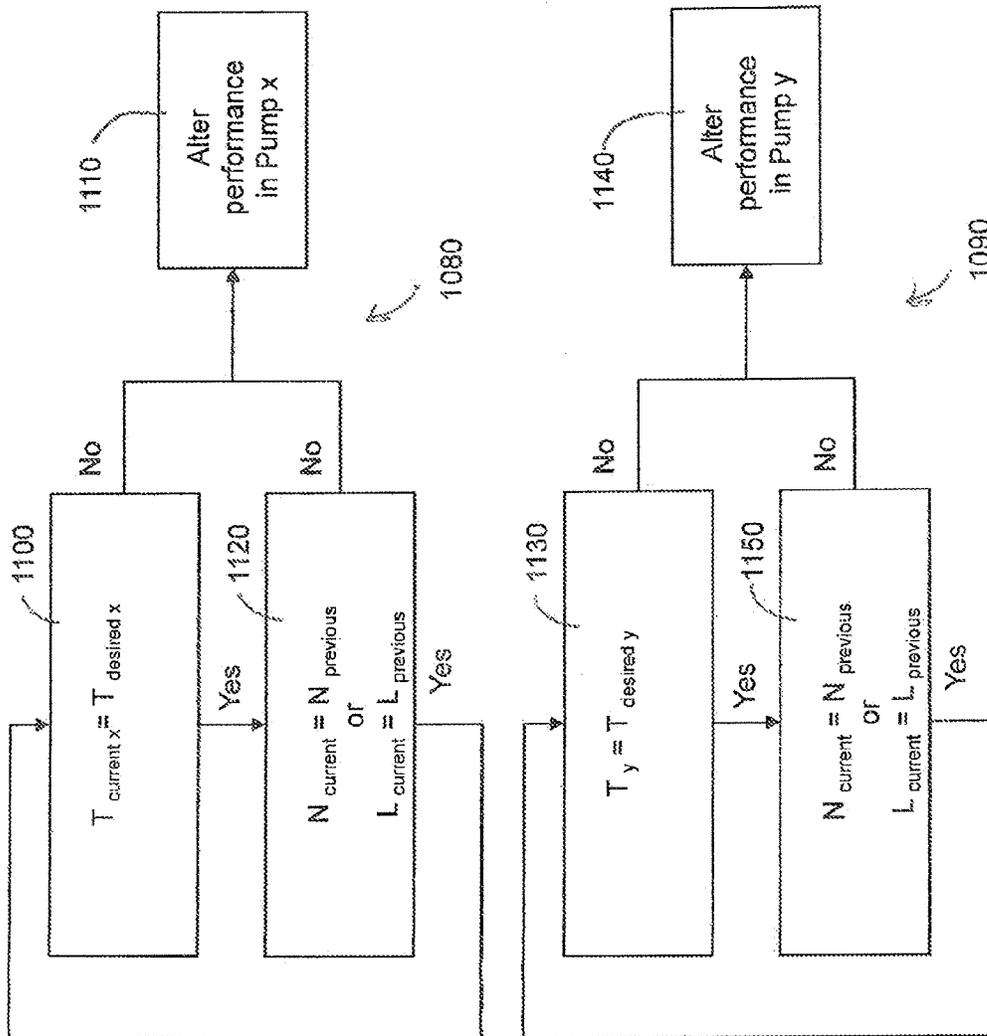


FIG. 11

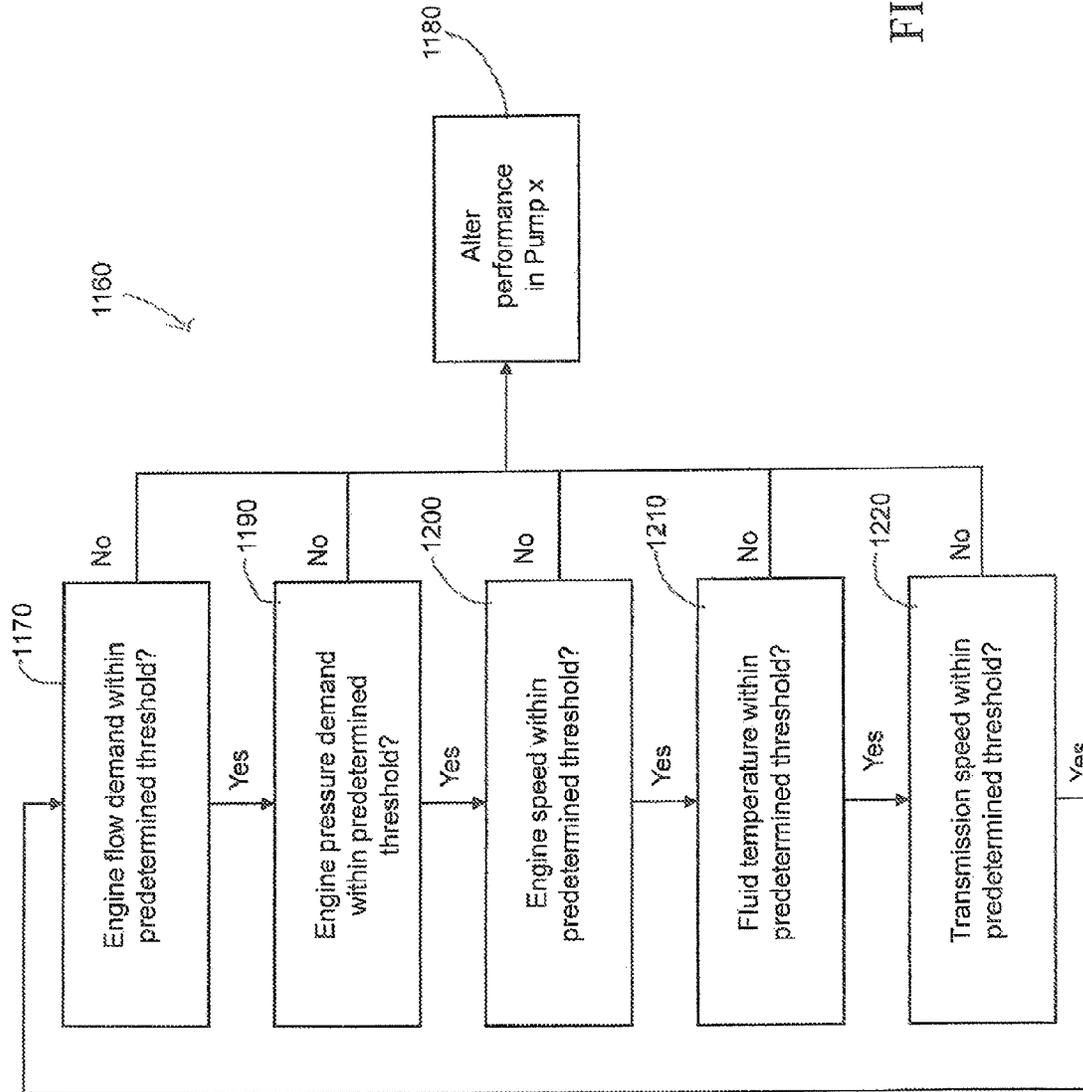


FIG. 12

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COOLING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A VEHICLE ENGINE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/331,456, which was filed on 10 Dec. 2008 and is incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a cooling system for an internal combustion engine. The cooling system can be used in a hybrid electric vehicle.

BACKGROUND

Automobile engines can generate a significant amount of heat during operation. Conventional cooling systems for engines include water pumps that circulate water or other coolants throughout the engine. Mechanical pumps (e.g., belt, chain or gear pumps) are popularly used in internal combustion engines. The pumps are driven by the rotational force of the engine crank shaft. Consequently, it is difficult to adjust or control the pump flow rate without adjusting the engine speed.

Additionally, there can be substantial parasitic losses when using mechanical pumps to cool the engine. Parasitic loss reductions can improve the fuel economy of internal combustion engine vehicles. Electric water pumps can be more efficient than mechanical pumps. For example, electric pumps can be controlled to reduce pump performance in instances where there is less demand on the cooling system. Flow requirements of larger engines and limited passage ways, however, can make the use of electric pumps prohibitively expensive, large and heavy.

Lastly, packaging the cooling system for an engine can be limited by other components of the vehicle. With larger engines requiring higher flow and pressure demands, larger pumps significantly increase the required packaging space.

Therefore, it is advantageous to reduce parasitic losses due to pumping coolant throughout the vehicle cooling system due to mechanically driven water pumps. It is also advantageous to provide a cooling system that can be packaged in smaller spaces.

SUMMARY

According to an exemplary aspect of the present disclosure, a cooling system for an internal combustion engine having a cylinder block and cylinder heads includes, among other things, a first pump in fluid communication with the engine. The first pump is an electric pump. A second pump is in fluid communication with the engine. The second pump is an electric pump. A control unit governs the first pump and second pump. At least one fluid return channel is configured to recirculate coolant to the pumps. The first pump is configured to supply coolant to a first cylinder head. The second pump is configured to supply coolant to a second cylinder head. The first and second pumps are arranged to backflow coolant through the engine.

In a further non-limiting embodiment of the foregoing cooling system, the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of engine operation.

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In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of engine flow demand.

5 In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of engine pressure demand.

10 In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of engine speed.

In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of coolant
15 temperature.

In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of a transmission speed.

20 In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the first and second pump are arranged in parallel.

In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the system further includes a third
25 pump arranged in series with at least one of the first and second pump.

In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the engine includes a plurality of cylinders and the cooling system includes a third pump to
30 supply coolant to at least one of the cylinders.

In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the cooling system includes at least one pump for each cylinder in the plurality of cylinders. Each pump is configured to supply coolant to a respective cylinder.

35 In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the first and second pumps are arranged to backflow coolant through the engine.

A cooling system according to another exemplary aspect of the present disclosure includes, among other things, a first
40 pump to supply coolant to a cylinder block of an engine. A second pump is to supply coolant to the cylinder block of the engine. A control unit governs the first pump and second pump. At least one fluid return channel recirculates coolant to the pumps. The first and second pumps are arranged to back-
45 flow coolant through the engine.

In a further non-limiting embodiment of the foregoing cooling system, the first pump and the second pump are electric pumps.

50 In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the engine is an internal combustion engine.

In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the first and second pump are arranged in parallel.

55 In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, a third pump is arranged in series with at least one of the first and second pump.

In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the engine comprises a plurality of
60 cylinders and the cooling system includes a third pump to supply coolant to at least one of the cylinders.

In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing cooling systems, the cooling system includes at least one pump for each cylinder in the plurality of cylinders. Each
65 pump configured to supply coolant to a respective cylinder.

A cooling method according to yet another exemplary aspect of the present disclosure includes, among other things,

supplying coolant to a cylinder head or a cylinder block of an engine using a first pump, supplying coolant to the other of the cylinder head or the cylinder block of the engine using a second pump, governing the first and second pumps using a control unit, recirculating coolant to the first and second pumps, and backflowing coolant through the engine using the first and second pumps.

The embodiments, examples and alternatives of the preceding paragraphs, the claims, or the following description and drawings, including any of their various aspects or respective individual features, may be taken independently or in any combination. Features described in connection with one embodiment are applicable to all embodiments, unless such features are incompatible.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. 1 is a schematic depiction of a cooling system and internal combustion engine according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a schematic depiction of a cooling system and internal combustion engine according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a schematic depiction of a cooling system and internal combustion engine according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a schematic depiction of a cooling system and internal combustion engine according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a schematic depiction of a cooling system and internal combustion engine according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a schematic depiction of a cooling system and internal combustion engine according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a schematic depiction of a cooling system and internal combustion engine according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a schematic depiction of a cooling system and internal combustion engine according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a schematic depiction of a control unit for a cooling system according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a flow chart of an algorithm for a pump control unit according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11 is a flow chart of an algorithm for a pump control unit according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 12 is a flow chart of an algorithm for a pump control unit according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

This Referring to the drawings, FIGS. 1-9, wherein like characters represent the same or corresponding parts throughout the several views there is shown cooling systems 10, 120, 230, 400, 520, 630, 740 for use with a vehicle engine. The vehicle can be a hybrid electric vehicle. The cooling systems include a number of electrical pumps in fluid communication with the engine. A control unit 840 is provided, as shown in FIG. 8, that controls the distribution of fluid between the pumps and the engine. The engines shown in the illustrated embodiments are internal combustion engines. The techniques disclosed herein can be used with various internal

combustion engines including, for example, V-4, V-6, V-8, V-10 or in-line arrangements. Other engines (e.g., Wankel or other internal combustion engine configurations) can also be used with the cooling system disclosed herein.

With reference to FIG. 1, there is shown a cooling system 10 and internal combustion engine 20. Cooling system 10 provides greater flexibility and control of the thermal conditions of the engine 20 during operation than contemporary designs with singular and/or mechanical water pumps. The illustrated cooling system 10 utilizes water as a coolant, other lubricants or coolants can be employed with the present teachings. E.g., in one embodiment, oil or antifreeze is utilized with the cooling system 10.

Cooling system 10, as shown in FIG. 1, includes two electrical water pumps (or "EWPs") 30, 40. Engine 20 is a v-type engine (e.g., a V-8). Engine 20 includes a first cylinder head 50 and second cylinder head 60. The cylinder heads 50, 60 are mounted atop a cylinder block 70. Each cylinder head 50, 60 has a pump dedicated to that head. Pump 30 is in fluid communication with the first cylinder head 50. Pump 30 selectively supplies fluid to the first cylinder head 50 upon command. Pump 40 is configured to provide fluid to the second cylinder head 60. Cooling system 10 includes a control system (e.g., like the control system 840 shown in FIG. 8). Control system governs the performance of pumps 30 and 40.

Pumps 30, 40 are configured in a parallel arrangement with respect to each other. In this configuration pumps 30, 40 provide greater flexibility and capability with respect to fluid flow rate. Fluid pressure is not necessarily increased at the same rate that flow rate is increased. Engines with greater flow demands than pressure requirements can utilize the shown cooling system 10.

Fluid is circulated through the cylinder block 70 from the cylinder heads 50, 60. In this embodiment, fluid is flown in a direction opposite of a natural flow of fluid in a backflowing process. E.g., fluid can be directed upward from the base of the cylinder block 70 to an upper portion of the cylinder block. Backflowing enables more efficient use of the fluid or coolant. Various engine components can be cooled with the same fluid without providing additional pumping mechanisms for each engine component. In some instances, backflowing can reduce corrosion of components and lead to greater thermal cooling. In FIG. 1, the cooling system 10 is configured to directly supply fluid to the cylinder heads 50, 60 and backflow fluid through the cylinder block 70.

The fluid exiting the engine is provided to a heater core 80. Heater core 80 can add or remove thermal energy from fluid. Heater core 80 can be controlled by a control unit that can be the same or separate from the cooling system control unit. In one embodiment, a heater control valve is connected to the control unit and used to control the heater core 80. In another exemplary embodiment, a fan or blender is used to control the heater core 80. Heater 80 can be any standard heater known within the field, e.g., radiator. Fluid dispensed from the heater core is directed back into pumps 30, 40.

A thermostat 90 is included in the cooling system 10. The thermostat 90 is in fluid communication with an engine radiator 100. Thermostat 90 controls flow to the radiator 100 to remove excess heat from the fluid. Thermostat 90 can be any standard thermostat known within the field.

In the illustrated embodiment, thermostat 90 can be in communication with temperature sensors (e.g., 95, 105 as shown in FIG. 1) configured to gauge the temperature of fluid. In the shown embodiment, sensor 95 is configured to measure the temperature of fluid in the cylinder head. Sensor 105 is configured to measure fluid on the hot side of the engine as it exits the engine block. Sensors 95, 105 can be placed at

various points with respect to the engine, including but not limited to the hot/cold sides of the engine, the cylinder head or locations with oil traveling therethrough. For example, temperature sensors can measure the temperature of fluid exiting the engine radiator. In one embodiment, the control unit governs the performance of pumps **30** and **40** according to the temperature readings from the temperature sensor. For example, if the fluid exiting engine **20** exceeds a predetermined threshold temperature of 120° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output. Where the temperature of fluid drops below another predetermined temperature (e.g., 80° C.) one or more pumps **30**, **40** can be performed at a reduced speed, flow or power level. In another example, a temperature sensor measures the temperature of the cylinder heads **50**, **60**. Where the cylinder heads **50**, **60** exceed a temperature of 300° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output.

In the shown embodiment, a fluid reservoir **110** is provided. The fluid reservoir **110** is in fluid communication with the cooling system **10** through the engine radiator **100**. When desired, fluid in reservoir **110** is circulated to the engine radiator **100**. Engine radiator **100** is in fluid communication with thermostat **90**. Engine radiator **100** can be any type of radiator known within the field.

With reference to FIG. 2, there is shown a cooling system **120** and internal combustion engine **130**. The illustrated cooling system utilizes water as a coolant, other lubricants or coolants can be employed with the present teachings. E.g., in one embodiment, oil or antifreeze is utilized with the cooling system **120**.

Cooling system **120**, as shown in FIG. 2, includes two electrical water pumps **140**, **150**. Engine **130** is a v-type engine (e.g., a V-8). Engine **130** includes a first cylinder head **160** and second cylinder head **170**. The cylinder heads **160**, **170** are mounted atop a cylinder block **180**. Pumps **140**, **150** are in fluid communication with the cylinder block **180**. Pumps **140**, **150** selectively supply fluid to the cylinder block **180** upon command. Cooling system **120** includes a control system (e.g., like the control system **840** shown in FIG. 8). Control system governs the performance of pumps **140** and **150**.

Pumps **140**, **150** are configured in a parallel arrangement with respect to each other. In this configuration, pumps **140**, **150** provide greater flexibility and capability with respect to fluid flow rate. Fluid pressure is not necessarily increased at the same rate that flow rate is increased. Engines with greater flow demands than pressure requirements can utilize the shown cooling system **120**. Fluid is circulated from the cylinder block **180** to cylinder heads **160**, **170**. Fluid can be directed in a direction opposite of a natural flow of fluid in a backflowing process.

The fluid exiting the engine **130** is provided to a heater core **190**. Heater core **190** can add or remove thermal energy from fluid. Heater core **190** can be controlled by a control unit that can be the same or separate from the cooling system control unit. In one embodiment, a heater control valve is connected to the control unit and used to control the heater core **190**. In another exemplary embodiment, a fan or blender is used to control the heater core **190**. Heater **190** can be any standard heater known within the field, e.g., radiator. Fluid dispensed from the heater core is directed back into pumps **140**, **150**.

A thermostat **200** is included in the cooling system **120**. The thermostat **200** is in fluid communication with an engine radiator **210**. Thermostat **200** controls flow to the radiator **210** to remove excess heat from the fluid. Thermostat **200** can be any standard thermostat known within the field.

In the illustrated embodiment, thermostat **200** can be in communication with temperature sensors (e.g., **195**, **205** as shown in FIG. 2) configured to gauge the temperature of fluid. In the shown embodiment, sensor **195** is configured to measure the temperature of fluid in the cylinder head. Sensor **205** is configured to measure fluid on the hot side of the engine as it exits the engine block. Sensors **195**, **205** can be placed at various points with respect to the engine, including but not limited to the hot/cold sides of the engine, the cylinder head or locations with oil traveling therethrough. For example, temperature sensors can measure the temperature of fluid exiting the engine radiator. In one embodiment, the control unit governs the performance of pumps **140** and **150** according to the temperature readings from the temperature sensor. For example, if the fluid exiting engine **130** exceeds a predetermined threshold temperature of 100° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output. Where the temperature of fluid drops below another predetermined temperature (e.g., 70° C.) one or more pumps **140**, **150** can be performed at a reduced speed, flow or power level. In another example, a temperature sensor measures the temperature of the cylinder heads **160**, **170**. Where the cylinder heads **160**, **170** exceed a temperature of 400° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output.

In the shown embodiment, a fluid reservoir **220** is provided. The fluid reservoir **220** is in fluid communication with the cooling system **120** through the engine radiator **210**. When desired, fluid in reservoir **220** is circulated to the engine radiator **210**. Engine radiator **210** is in fluid communication with thermostat **200**. Engine radiator **210** can be any type of radiator known within the field.

With reference to FIG. 3, there is shown a cooling system **230** and internal combustion engine **240**. Cooling system **230** provides greater flexibility and control of the thermal conditions of the engine **240** during operation than contemporary designs with singular and/or mechanical water pumps. The illustrated cooling system **230** utilizes water as a coolant, other lubricants or coolants can be employed with the present teachings. E.g., in one embodiment, oil or antifreeze is utilized with the cooling system **230**.

Cooling system **230**, as shown in FIG. 3, includes eight electrical water pumps (or "EWPs") **250**, **260**, **270**, **280**, **290**, **300**, **310** and **320**. Engine **240** is a v-type engine such as a V-8. Engine includes a first cylinder head **330** and second cylinder head **340**. The cylinder heads **330**, **340** are mounted atop a cylinder block **350**. Each cylinder head **330**, **340** has a pump dedicated to that cylinder. Pumps **250**, **260**, **270**, and **280** are in fluid communication with the first cylinder head **330** and provide fluid to a first, second, third and fourth cylinder. Pumps **250**, **260**, **270**, and **280** selectively supply fluid to the cylinders in the first cylinder head **330** upon command. Pumps **290**, **300**, **310** and **320** are configured to provide fluid to the second cylinder head **340** that includes a fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth cylinder. Cooling system **230** includes a control system (e.g., like the control system **840** shown in FIG. 8). Control system governs the performance of pumps **250**, **260**, **270**, **280**, **290**, **300**, **310** and **320**. In another embodiment, each cylinder has a pump dedicated to the cylinder.

Pumps **250**, **270**, **290** and **310** are configured in a parallel arrangement with respect to each other. Pumps **250** and **260**, **270** and **280**, **290** and **300**, as well as **310** and **320** are configured in series with respect to each other. In this configuration pumps **250**, **260**, **270**, **280**, **290**, **300**, **310** and **320** provide greater flexibility and capability with respect to fluid flow rate and pressure. Pumps **250**, **260**, **270**, **280**, **290**, **300**, **310** and **320** can be selectively turned off so that fluid pressure is not

necessarily increased at the same rate that flow rate is increased or vice versa. In one embodiment, the engine 240 is a displacement-on-demand (or DOD) engine. Control unit is configured to control the pumps 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310 and 320 according to the number of cylinders the engine 240 is operating. Where the engine 240 is only utilizing four cylinders, four pumps or less are providing fluid to the engine.

Cooling system 230 can also be configured so that each cylinder head 330, 340 can have the same or different numbers of pumps operating simultaneously. In one arrangement, only two pumps are operating on each cylinder head 330, 340. In another arrangement, cylinder head 330 has three pumps operating while cylinder head 340 has only two pumps operating. Where it is desirable to increase the flow rate in cylinder head 330 pump 250 can operate in conjunction with pumps 270 and/or 280. When it is desirable to increase the pressure in cylinder head 330 pump 250 can be operated in conjunction with pump 260. Control unit is configured to alter the performance of each pump as a function of engine or transmission operation.

Fluid is circulated through the cylinder block 350 from the cylinder heads 330, 340. In FIG. 3, the cooling system 230 is configured to directly supply fluid to the cylinder head 330 and backflow fluid through the cylinder block 350.

The fluid exiting the engine is provided to a heater core 360. Heater core 360 can add or remove thermal energy from fluid. Heater core 360 can be controlled by a control unit that can be the same or separate from the cooling system control unit. In one embodiment, a heater control valve is connected to the control unit and used to control the heater core 360. In another exemplary embodiment, a fan or blender is used to control the heater core 360. Heater 360 can be any standard heater known within the field, e.g., radiator. Fluid dispensed from the heater core 360 is directed back into pumps 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310 and 320.

A thermostat 370 is included in the cooling system 230. The thermostat 370 is in fluid communication with an engine radiator 380. Thermostat 370 controls flow to the radiator 380 to remove excess heat from the fluid. Thermostat 370 can be any standard thermostat known within the field.

In the illustrated embodiment, thermostat 370 can be in communication with temperature sensors (e.g., 365, 375 as shown in FIG. 3) configured to gauge the temperature of fluid. In the shown embodiment, sensor 365 is configured to measure the temperature of fluid in the cylinder head. Sensor 375 is configured to measure fluid on the hot side of the engine as it exits the engine block. Sensors 365, 375 can be placed at various points with respect to the engine, including but not limited to the hot/cold sides of the engine, the cylinder head or locations with oil traveling therethrough. For example, temperature sensors can measure the temperature of fluid exiting the engine radiator. In one embodiment, the control unit governs the performance of pumps 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310 and 320 according to the temperature readings from the temperature sensor. For example, if the fluid exiting engine 240 exceeds a predetermined threshold temperature of 110° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output. Where the temperature of fluid drops below another predetermined temperature (e.g., 75° C.) one or more pumps 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310 or 320 can be performed at a reduced speed, flow or power level. In another example, a temperature sensor measures the temperature of the cylinder heads 330, 340. Where the cylinder heads 330, 340 exceed a temperature of 350° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output.

In the shown embodiment, a fluid reservoir 390 is provided. The fluid reservoir 390 is in fluid communication with

the cooling system 230 through the engine radiator 380. When desired, fluid in reservoir is circulated to the engine radiator 380. Engine radiator 380 is in fluid communication with thermostat 370. Engine radiator 380 can be any type of radiator known within the field.

With reference to FIG. 4, there is shown a cooling system 400 and internal combustion engine 410. The illustrated cooling system utilizes water as a coolant, other lubricants or coolants can be employed with the present teachings. E.g., in one embodiment, oil or antifreeze is utilized with the cooling system 400.

Cooling system 400, as shown in FIG. 4, includes three electrical water pumps 420, 430 and 440 arranged in parallel with respect to each other. A mechanical water pump 450 (or "MWP") is also provided, arranged in series with respect to the electric water pumps 420, 430 and 440. Engine 410 is an in-line engine (e.g., an I-4). Engine 410 includes a cylinder head 460 and cylinder block 470. Pumps 420, 430 and 440 are in fluid communication with the cylinder block 470. Cooling system 400 includes a control system (e.g., like the control system 840 shown in FIG. 8). Control system governs the performance of pumps 420, 430 and 440.

Pumps 420, 430 and 440 are configured in a parallel arrangement with respect to each other. In this configuration pumps 420, 430 and 440 provide greater flexibility and capability with respect to fluid flow rate. Fluid pressure is not necessarily increased at the same rate that flow rate is increased. Engines with greater flow demands than pressure requirements can utilize the shown cooling system 400. Pumps 420, 430 and 460 can be auxiliary pumps configured to increase the aggregate pressure of the cooling system 400 under predetermined circumstances.

Mechanical water pump 450 receives fluid from pumps 420, 430 and 440. Pump 450 is located in the cylinder block 470. Pump 450 directs fluid to the cylinder head 460 of the engine 410. Pump 450 can be any mechanical fluid pump known within the field.

The fluid exiting the engine 410 is provided to a heater core 480. Heater core 480 can add or remove thermal energy from fluid. Heater core 480 can be controlled by a control unit that can be the same or separate from the cooling system control unit. In one embodiment, a heater control valve is connected to the control unit and used to control the heater core 480. In another exemplary embodiment, a fan or blender is used to control the heater core 480. Heater 480 can be any standard heater known within the field, e.g., radiator. Fluid dispensed from the heater core 480 is directed back into pumps 420, 430 and 440.

A thermostat 490 is included in the cooling system 400. The thermostat 490 is in fluid communication with an engine radiator 500. Thermostat 490 controls flow to the radiator 500 to remove excess heat from the fluid. Thermostat 490 can be any standard thermostat known within the field.

In the illustrated embodiment, thermostat 490 can be in communication with temperature sensors (e.g., 485, 495 as shown in FIG. 4) configured to gauge the temperature of fluid. In the shown embodiment, sensor 485 is configured to measure the temperature of fluid in the cylinder head. Sensor 495 is configured to measure fluid on the hot side of the engine as it exits the cylinder head. Sensors 485, 495 can be placed at various points with respect to the engine, including but not limited to the hot/cold sides of the engine, the cylinder head or locations with oil traveling therethrough. For example, temperature sensors can measure the temperature of fluid exiting the engine radiator. In one embodiment, the control unit governs the performance of pumps 420, 430 and 440 according to the temperature readings from the temperature sensor. For

example, if the fluid exiting engine **410** exceeds a predetermined threshold temperature of 110° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output. Where the temperature of fluid drops below another predetermined temperature (e.g., 75° C.) one or more pumps **420**, **430** and **440** can be performed at a reduced speed, flow or power level. In another example, a temperature sensor measures the temperature of the cylinder head **460**. Where the cylinder head **460** exceeds a temperature of 350° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output.

In the shown embodiment, a fluid reservoir **510** is provided. The fluid reservoir **510** is in fluid communication with the cooling system through the engine radiator **500**. When desired, fluid in reservoir **510** is circulated to the engine radiator **500**. Engine radiator **500** is in fluid communication with thermostat **490**. Engine radiator **500** can be any type of radiator known within the field.

Cooling system **520** shown in FIG. 5 is similar to the cooling system **400** shown in FIG. 4. Cooling system **520** includes three electrical water pumps **530**, **540**, and **550** arranged in parallel with respect to each other. Cooling system **520** does not include a mechanical water pump like cooling system shown in FIG. 4. Pumps **530**, **540**, and **550** supply fluid directly into the cylinder block **560** of the engine **570**. Fluid is directed into the cylinder head **580** from the cylinder block by pumps **530**, **540**, and **550**. Cooling system **520** provides reduced pressure capabilities with respect to cooling system **400**, of FIG. 4. Cooling system **520** requires fewer parts and provides a lower cost alternative to cooling system **400**.

The fluid exiting the engine **570** is provided to a heater core **590**. Heater core **590** can add or remove thermal energy from fluid. Heater core **590** can be controlled by a control unit that can be the same or separate from the cooling system control unit. In one embodiment, a heater control valve is connected to the control unit and used to control the heater core **590**. In another exemplary embodiment, a fan or blender is used to control the heater core **590**. Heater **590** can be any standard heater known within the field, e.g., radiator. Fluid dispensed from the heater core is directed back into pumps **530**, **540**, and **550**.

A thermostat **600** is included in the cooling system **520**. The thermostat **600** is in fluid communication with an engine radiator **610**. Thermostat **600** controls flow to the radiator **610** to remove excess heat from the fluid. Thermostat **600** can be any standard thermostat known within the field.

In the illustrated embodiment, thermostat **600** can be in communication with temperature sensors (e.g., **595**, **605** as shown in FIG. 5) configured to gauge the temperature of fluid. In the shown embodiment, sensor **595** is configured to measure the temperature of fluid in the cylinder head. Sensor **605** is configured to measure fluid on the hot side of the engine as it exits the cylinder head. Sensors **595**, **605** can be placed at various points with respect to the engine, including but not limited to the hot/cold sides of the engine, the cylinder head or locations with oil traveling therethrough. For example, temperature sensors can measure the temperature of fluid exiting the engine radiator. In one embodiment, the control unit governs the performance of pumps **530**, **540** and **550** according to the temperature readings from the temperature sensor. For example, if the fluid exiting engine **570** exceeds a predetermined threshold temperature of 112° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output. Where the temperature of fluid drops below another predetermined temperature (e.g., 76° C.) one or more pumps **530**, **540** or **550** can be performed at a reduced speed, flow or power level. In another example, a temperature sensor measures the temperature of

the cylinder head **580**. Where the cylinder head **580** exceed a temperature of 250° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output.

In the shown embodiment, a fluid reservoir **620** is provided. The fluid reservoir **620** is in fluid communication with the cooling system through the engine radiator **610**. When desired, fluid in reservoir **620** is circulated to the engine radiator **610**. Engine radiator **610** is in fluid communication with thermostat **600**. Engine radiator **610** can be any type of radiator known within the field.

With reference to FIG. 6, there is shown a cooling system **630** and internal combustion engine **640**. The illustrated cooling system **630** utilizes water as a coolant, other lubricants or coolants can be employed with the present teachings. E.g., in one embodiment, oil or antifreeze is utilized with the cooling system **630**.

Cooling system **630**, as shown in FIG. 6, includes two electrical water pumps **650**, **660** arranged in series with respect to each other. A mechanical water pump (or "MWP") **670** is also provided, arranged in series with respect to the electric water pumps **650**, **660**. Engine **640** is an in-line engine (e.g., an I-4). Engine **640** includes a cylinder head **680** and cylinder block **690**. Pumps **650**, **660** are in fluid communication with the cylinder block **690**. Cooling system **630** includes a control system (e.g., like the control system **840** shown in FIG. 8). Control system **630** governs the performance of pumps **650**, **660**.

Pumps **650**, **660** are configured in a series arrangement with respect to each other. In this configuration pumps **650**, **660** provide greater flexibility and capability with respect to fluid pressure. Fluid flow rate is not necessarily increased at the same rate that flow pressure is increased. Engines with greater pressure demands than pressure requirements can utilize the shown cooling system **630**. Pumps **650** and **660** can be auxiliary pumps configured to increase the aggregate pressure of the cooling system **630** under predetermined circumstances.

Mechanical water pump **670** receives fluid from pumps **650**, **660**. Pump **670** is located in the cylinder block **690**. Pump **670** directs fluid to the cylinder head **680** of the engine **640**. Pump **670** can be any mechanical fluid pump known within the field.

The fluid exiting the engine **640** is provided to a heater core **700**. Heater core **700** can add or remove thermal energy from fluid. Heater core **700** can be controlled by a control unit that can be the same or separate from the cooling system control unit. In one embodiment, a heater control valve is connected to the control unit and used to control the heater core **700**. In another exemplary embodiment, a fan or blender is used to control the heater core **700**. Heater **700** can be any standard heater known within the field, e.g., radiator. Fluid dispensed from the heater core is directed back into pumps **650**, **660**.

A thermostat **710** is included in the cooling system **630**. The thermostat **710** is in fluid communication with an engine radiator **720**. Thermostat **710** controls flow to the radiator **720** to remove excess heat from the fluid. Thermostat **710** can be any standard thermostat known within the field.

In the illustrated embodiment, thermostat **710** can be in communication with temperature sensors (e.g., **705**, **715** as shown in FIG. 6) configured to gauge the temperature of fluid. In the shown embodiment, sensor **705** is configured to measure the temperature of fluid in the cylinder head. Sensor **715** is configured to measure fluid on the hot side of the engine as it exits the cylinder head. Sensors **705**, **715** can be placed at various points with respect to the engine, including but not limited to the hot/cold sides of the engine, the cylinder head or locations with oil traveling therethrough. For example, tem-

perature sensors can measure the temperature of fluid exiting the engine radiator. In one embodiment, the control unit governs the performance of pumps **650** and **660** according to the temperature readings from the temperature sensor. For example, if the fluid exiting engine **640** exceeds a predetermined threshold temperature of 105° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output. Where the temperature of fluid drops below another predetermined temperature (e.g., 70° C.) one or more pumps **650** or **660** can be performed at a reduced speed, flow or power level. In another example, a temperature sensor measures the temperature of the cylinder head **680**. Where the cylinder head **680** exceeds a temperature of 250° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output.

In the shown embodiment, a fluid reservoir **730** is provided. The fluid reservoir **730** is in fluid communication with the cooling system **630** through the engine radiator **720**. When desired, fluid in reservoir **730** is circulated to the engine radiator **720**. Engine radiator **720** is in fluid communication with thermostat **710**. Engine radiator **720** can be any type of radiator known within the field.

Cooling system **740** shown in FIG. 7 is similar to the cooling system **630** disclosed in FIG. 6. Cooling system **740** includes two electrical water pumps **750**, **760** arranged in series with respect to each other. Cooling system **740** does not include a mechanical water pump like cooling system **630** shown in FIG. 6. Pumps **750**, **760** supply fluid directly into the cylinder block **770** of the engine **780**. Fluid is directed into the cylinder **790** head from the cylinder block by pumps **750**, **760**. Cooling system **740** provides reduced pressure capabilities with respect to cooling system **630** of FIG. 6. Cooling system **740** requires fewer parts and provides a lower cost alternative to cooling system **630**.

The fluid exiting the engine **780** is provided to a heater core **800**. Heater core **800** can add or remove thermal energy from fluid. Heater core **800** can be controlled by a control unit that can be the same or separate from the cooling system control unit. In one embodiment, a heater control valve is connected to the control unit and used to control the heater core **800**. In another exemplary embodiment, a fan or blender is used to control the heater core **800**. Heater **800** can be any standard heater known within the field, e.g., radiator. Fluid dispensed from the heater core is directed back into pumps **750**, **760**.

A thermostat **810** is included in the cooling system **740**. The thermostat **810** is in fluid communication with an engine radiator **820**. Thermostat **810** controls flow to the radiator **820** to remove excess heat from the fluid. Thermostat **810** can be any standard thermostat known within the field.

In the illustrated embodiment, thermostat **810** can be in communication with temperature sensors (e.g., **805**, **815** as shown in FIG. 7) configured to gauge the temperature of fluid. In the shown embodiment, sensor **805** is configured to measure the temperature of fluid in the cylinder head. Sensor **815** is configured to measure fluid on the hot side of the engine as it exits the cylinder head. Sensors **805**, **815** can be placed at various points with respect to the engine, including but not limited to the hot/cold sides of the engine, the cylinder head or locations with oil traveling therethrough. For example, temperature sensors can measure the temperature of fluid exiting the engine radiator. In one embodiment, the control unit governs the performance of pumps **750** and **760** according to the temperature readings from the temperature sensor. For example, if the fluid exiting engine **780** exceeds a predetermined threshold temperature of 110° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output. Where the temperature of fluid drops below another predetermined temperature (e.g., 75° C.) one or more pumps **750** or **760** can be performed at

a reduced speed, flow or power level. In another example, a temperature sensor measures the temperature of the cylinder head **790**. Where the cylinder head **790** exceeds a temperature of 350° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output.

In the shown embodiment, a fluid reservoir **830** is provided. The fluid reservoir **830** is in fluid communication with the cooling system through the engine radiator **820**. When desired, fluid in reservoir **830** is circulated to the engine radiator **820**. Engine radiator **820** is in fluid communication with thermostat **810**. Engine radiator **820** can be any type of radiator known within the field.

With reference to FIG. 8 a cooling system **840** is shown with an inline engine **850**. Cooling system **840** includes two electrical water pumps **860**, **870** arranged in parallel with respect to each other. The cooling system **840** includes two separate cooling circuits. The first circuit includes an electric water pump **860** configured to supply fluid to the cylinder head **880** of the engine. In the shown embodiment, fluid is returned to the fluid reservoir **890** after exiting the cylinder head **880**. A fluid return channel or bank **900** runs from the cylinder head **880** to the fluid reservoir **890**. Fluid can be combined and returned to the fluid reservoir **890** or a heater core **910** after exiting the cylinder head **880**. The second circuit includes an electric water pump **870** which is configured to supply fluid to the cylinder block **920**. In the shown embodiment, fluid is returned to the fluid reservoir **890** after exiting the engine block **920**. A fluid return channel **930** runs from the cylinder block **920** to the heater core **910**. Fluid can be combined and returned to the heater core **910** or fluid reservoir **890** after exiting the cylinder block **920**. In the shown embodiment, the cooling system **840** includes at least two fluid return channels (or banks) **900** and **930**. Cooling system **840** enables greater temperature control between the cylinder head **880** and cylinder block **920**. Greater efficiencies can be obtained by cooling system **840** as pump **860** or **870** can perform according to the needs of the cylinder head **880** and cylinder block **920**, respectively. Where the cylinder head **880** requires less cooling than the cylinder block **920**, pump **860** can perform at a reduced power level. Vice versa, where the cylinder block **920** requires less cooling than the cylinder head **880**, pump **870** can perform at a reduced power level.

Heater core **910** can add or remove thermal energy from fluid. Heater core **910** can be controlled by a control unit that can be the same or separate from the cooling system control unit. In one embodiment, a heater control valve is connected to the control unit and used to control the heater core **910**. In another exemplary embodiment, a fan or blender is used to control the heater core **910**. Heater **910** can be any standard heater known within the field, e.g., radiator. Fluid dispensed from the heater core is directed back into pumps **860**, **870**.

A thermostat **940** is included in the cooling system **840**. The thermostat **940** is in fluid communication with an engine radiator **950**. Thermostat **940** controls flow to the radiator **950** to remove excess heat from the fluid. Thermostat **940** can be any standard thermostat known within the field.

In the illustrated embodiment, thermostat **940** can be in communication with temperature sensors (e.g., **935**, **945** as shown in FIG. 8) configured to gauge the temperature of fluid. In the shown embodiment, sensor **935** is configured to measure the temperature of fluid in the cylinder head. Sensor **945** is configured to measure fluid on the hot side of the engine as it exits the engine block. Sensors **935**, **945** can be placed at various points with respect to the engine, including but not limited to the hot/cold sides of the engine, the cylinder head or locations with oil traveling therethrough. For example, tem-

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perature sensors can measure the temperature of fluid exiting the engine radiator. In one embodiment, the control unit governs the performance of pumps **860** and **870** according to the temperature readings from the temperature sensor. For example, if the fluid exiting engine **850** exceeds a predetermined threshold temperature of 100° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output. Where the temperature of fluid drops below another predetermined temperature (e.g., 70° C.) one or more pumps **860** or **870** can be performed at a reduced speed, flow or power level. In another example, a temperature sensor measures the temperature of the cylinder head **880**. Where the cylinder head **880** exceeds a temperature of 300° C. pumps can be instructed to increase their flow output.

Fluid reservoir **890** is in fluid communication with the cooling system **840** through the engine radiator **950**. When desired, fluid in reservoir **890** is circulated to the engine radiator **950**. Engine radiator **950** is in fluid communication with thermostat **940**. Engine radiator **950** can be any type of radiator known within the field.

With reference to FIG. 9, a control unit **960** is shown. Control unit **960** can be compatible with any of the exemplary cooling systems **10**, **120**, **230**, **400**, **520**, **630**, **740**, and **840** disclosed herein. Control unit **960** is in communication with a number of electronic pumps **970**, **980**, and **990**. In the shown embodiment, control unit **960** is in communication with the engine control unit (or “ECU”) **1000**, transmission control unit (or “TCU”) **1010**, thermostat **1020**, and other vehicle controllers e.g., **1030**. Control unit **960** is configured to alter the performance of each pump as a function of engine or transmission operation. In one embodiment, control unit **960** governs at least one of the pumps **970**, **980** or **990** as a function of engine flow demand. Control unit **960** receives a signal from ECU **1000** as to the engine flow requirements of the engine. Where the engine requires an increased flow, pumps **970**, **980** and **990** can increase the power level at which they operate. In one embodiment, pumps **970**, **980** and **990** can operate in either series or parallel, as shown in FIG. 3. Where the engine requires an increased flow, pumps **970**, **980** and/or **990** are instructed to operate in series with respect to each other. Where engine requires an increase pressure demand, pumps **970**, **980** and/or **990** are instructed to operate in parallel with respect to each other. ECU **1000** is also configured to provide a signal indicative of engine operating speed. Pumps **970**, **980** and/or **990** can be governed as a function of engine speed as well.

Control unit **960** is in communication with thermostat **1020**. Thermostat **1020** is configured to send an electronic signal indicative of the temperature of the fluid. In one embodiment, control unit **960** has control algorithm that governs pump performance as a function of fluid temperature. Some exemplary thermal conditions are disclosed herein-above. Control unit **960** can be configured with a number of threshold temperatures. The performance of each pump **970**, **980** and/or **990** can be altered at each threshold temperature.

In another embodiment, control unit **960** is configured to govern pump performance as a function of transmission speed. Control unit **960** is in communication with the transmission control unit **1010**. TCU **1010** sends a signal to control unit indicative of transmission speed. In one example, the control unit **840** includes logic to increase the flow rate of fluid as the transmission speed or gears increases. In another embodiment, control unit **960** is configured to govern the pumps **970**, **980** and/or **990** according to most efficient operating scenario. The most efficient scenario can be defined as the operating scenario that requires the lower power demands for the cooling system.

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FIG. 10 illustrates an exemplary algorithm **1040** for a control unit. The control unit performs a series of checks on the cooling systems to determine what type of pump performance is needed for the cooling system. Initially, control unit is in communication with a thermostat or temperature sensor. Control unit checks the temperature of fluid **1050**. If the measured temperature “T current” is equal to a threshold or desired temperature “Tdesired x” Pump x continues performing at the same level. Where the measured temperature is not equal to the desired temperature, the control unit alters the performance of Pump x, as shown at **1060**. Control unit can reduce or increase pump performance.

At step **1070** control unit can check the speed of the engine or flow rate of the fluid. Control unit compares the current engine speed “N current” with a previously measured engine speed “N previous”. Where the engine speed has changed, the control unit alters the performance in Pump x. Control unit can also check the flow rate of fluid at any point in the hydraulic circuit. The current flow rate “L current” is compared to a previous flow rate “L previous”. Where the flow rate changes, the control unit alters the performance in Pump x. The algorithm **1040** is a closed loop program. Control unit continues to re-check the temperature at step **1050** once the program concludes.

FIG. 11 illustrates two exemplary algorithms **1080**, **1090** for a control unit governing pump performance in two separate hydraulic circuits. The control unit performs a series of checks on each hydraulic circuit to determine what type of pump performance is needed for the cooling system. The first algorithm **1080** is configured to control pumps that provide fluid to the cylinder head. The second algorithm **1090** is configured to control pumps that provide fluid to the cylinder block. Initially, control unit is in communication with a thermostat or temperature sensor associated with the cylinder head. Control unit checks the temperature of fluid **1100**. If the measured temperature “T current” is equal to a threshold or desired temperature “Tdesired x” Pump x continues performing at the same level. Where the measured temperature is not equal to the desired temperature, the control unit alters the performance of Pump x, as shown at **1110**. Control unit can reduce or increase pump performance. At step **1120** control unit can check the speed of the engine or flow rate of the fluid. Control unit compares the current engine speed “N current” with a previously measured engine speed “N previous”. Where the engine speed has changed, the control unit alters the performance in Pump x at **1110**. Control unit can also check the flow rate of fluid at any point in the hydraulic circuit. The current flow rate “L current” is compared to a previous flow rate “L previous”. Where the flow rate changes, the control unit alters the performance in Pump x. The algorithm **1080** is a closed loop program. Control unit continues to re-check the temperature at step **1100** once the program concludes.

Control unit is also in communication with a thermostat or temperature sensor associated with the cylinder block. Control unit checks the temperature of fluid **1130**. If the measured temperature “T current” is equal to a threshold or desired temperature “Tdesired y” the Pump y continues performing at the same level. Where the measured temperature is not equal to the desired temperature, the control unit alters the performance of Pump y, as shown at **1140**. Control unit can reduce or increase the pump performance. At step **1150** control unit can check the speed of the engine or flow rate of the fluid. Control unit compares the current engine speed “N current” with a previously measured engine speed “N previous”. Where the engine speed has changed, the control unit alters the performance in Pump y. Control unit can also check the

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flow rate of fluid at any point in the hydraulic circuit. The current flow rate “L current” is compared to a previous flow rate “L previous”. Where the flow rate changes, the control unit alters the performance in Pump y. The algorithm 1090 is a closed loop program. Control unit continues to re-check the temperature at step 1130 once the program concludes.

FIG. 12 illustrates another exemplary algorithm 1160 for a control unit. The control unit performs a series of checks on other systems to determine what type of pump performance is needed for the cooling system. Initially, control unit checks if engine flow demand is within a predetermined threshold 1170. If so, the control unit moves on to the next check. Where the engine flow demand is above a predetermined threshold, the control unit alters performance in one or more of the pumps in the cooling system 1180. For the next check, the control unit checks whether engine pressure is within a predetermined threshold 1190. If not, the control unit alters performance in one or more of the pumps in the cooling system 1180.

The control unit also checks the engine speed at 1200. If the engine speed is outside of a predetermined threshold, control unit alters performance in one or more of the pumps of the cooling system 1180. Control unit is in communication with a thermostat and checks whether the fluid is within a predetermined threshold 1210. When the fluid temperature is outside of a predetermined threshold, control unit alters performance in one or more of the pumps of the cooling system 1180. Control unit is also in communication with a transmission control unit. Control unit checks the transmission performance characteristics. In one embodiment, control unit checks the transmission speed 1220. If transmission speed is within a predetermined threshold, control unit proceeds to the next check 1170. If the transmission speed is outside of a predetermined threshold, control unit alters the performance in one or more of the pumps of the cooling system 1180. In the shown embodiment, the algorithm is a closed loop system. When control unit has performed all checks, the program re-starts and begins checking engine flow demand at 1170. In another, embodiment, the algorithm is not a closed loop system. The order of each check can be altered. In another embodiment, control unit governs the performance of pumps as a function of transmission speed and temperature alone. Control unit can include any number of known processors to accomplish the exemplary algorithms mentioned herein. Exemplary processors include 64- or 32-bit processors.

The order in which fluid is supplied to engine components can be altered and still be within the spirit of the present invention. For example, the cooling system 230 shown in FIG. 3 provides fluid to the cylinder head 330 first and then directs fluid to the cylinder block 350. Cooling system 230 can be configured to first provide fluid to the cylinder block 350 and then be routed to the cylinder heads 330 or 340. Alternative flow patterns can be utilized and still be within the spirit of the present invention(s).

The teachings of the present invention reduce the size of each individual pump to increase the flexibility of implementation in a vehicle. Overall packaging size and the electrical current drawn can be reduced. Another benefit of the present invention(s) is that it can reduce production costs. Ordering pumps in greater volumes can lead to lower individual part costs. The use of electric water pumps typically increases the aggregate flow and pressure in the system. In some arrangements, a smaller mechanical water pump can be utilized.

The invention has been described with reference to certain aspects. These aspects and features illustrated in the drawings can be employed alone or in combination. Modifications and alterations will occur to others upon a reading and under-

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standing of this specification. Although the described aspects discuss electric water pumps as one material of construction, it is understood that other types of pumps can be used for selected components if so desired. It is understood that mere reversal of components that achieve substantially the same function and result are contemplated, e.g., increasing the pressure output or flow rate of fluid can be achieved by different configurations without departing from the present invention. It is intended to include all such modifications and alterations insofar as they come within the scope of the appended claims or the equivalents thereof. Moreover, those familiar with the art to which this invention relates will recognize various alternative designs and embodiments for practicing the invention within the scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A cooling system for an internal combustion engine, the internal combustion engine having a cylinder block and a plurality of cylinder heads, the system comprising:

a first pump in fluid communication with the engine, the first pump being an electric pump;
 a second pump in fluid communication with the engine, the second pump being an electric pump;
 a control unit that governs the first and second pumps; and
 at least one fluid return channels configured to recirculate coolant to at least one of the first and second pumps, wherein the first pump is configured to supply coolant to a first cylinder head,
 wherein the second pump is configured to supply coolant to a second cylinder head,
 wherein the first and second pumps are arranged to backflow coolant through the engine.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of engine operation.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of engine flow demand.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of engine pressure demand.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of engine speed.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of coolant temperature.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the control unit governs at least one of the first pump and second pump as a function of a transmission speed.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second pump are arranged in parallel.

9. The system of claim 8, further comprising a third pump arranged in series with at least one of the first and second pump.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the cooling system includes a third pump to supply coolant to at least one of the first cylinder head or the second cylinder head.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the cooling system includes at least one pump for each cylinder in the plurality of cylinders, each pump configured to supply coolant to a respective cylinder.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the flow from the first and second cylinder heads flows directly to the cylinder block, the first and second pumps are arranged to backflow coolant through the cylinder block by directing the coolant upward from a base of the cylinder block to an upper portion of the cylinder block.

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13. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second pumps are arranged to backflow coolant through the engine such that the flow moves opposite a natural direction of flow through the engine.

14. A cooling system comprising:

a first pump to supply coolant to a cylinder block of an engine;

a second pump to supply coolant to the cylinder block of the engine;

a control unit that governs the first pump and second pump; and

at least one fluid return channel to recirculate coolant to the first and second pumps, wherein the first and second pumps are arranged to backflow coolant through the engine.

15. The cooling system of claim 14, wherein the first and second pump are arranged in parallel.

16. The cooling system of claim 14, further comprising a third pump arranged in series with at least one of the first and second pump.

17. The cooling system of claim 14, wherein the engine comprises a plurality of cylinders and wherein the cooling system includes a third pump to supply coolant to at least one of the cylinders.

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18. The cooling system of claim 17, wherein the cooling system includes at least one pump for each cylinder in the plurality of cylinders, each pump configured to supply coolant to a respective cylinder.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein the flow from the cylinder block flows directly to the a cylinder head of the engine, the first and second pumps are arranged to backflow coolant through the cylinder head, the cylinder block, or both by directing the coolant to flow opposite a natural direction of flow.

20. A cooling method, comprising:

supplying coolant to at least one of a cylinder head or a cylinder block of an engine using a first pump;

supplying coolant to the one of the cylinder head or the cylinder block of the engine using a second pump;

governing the first and second pumps using a control unit;

recirculating coolant to the first and second pumps; and

backflowing coolant through the engine using the first and second pumps.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

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Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 1, column 16, line 24; delete "channels" and replace with --channel--

Signed and Sealed this
Sixth Day of September, 2016



Michelle K. Lee
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office